

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An activated ~~Activated~~ carbon, ~~which is~~ obtained by subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, wherein the overall content of alkali metals in said activated carbon is 100 ppm or less.

Claim 2 (Original): The activated carbon according to claim 1, wherein said alkali metals are sodium and/or potassium.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product, thus obtained, with a liquid that contains carbonic acid to give the activated carbon.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An activated ~~Activated~~ carbon, ~~which is~~ obtained by subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, wherein the overall content of heavy metals in said activated carbon is 20 ppm or less.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 4, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 5, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least nickel, and wherein the nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 5, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least zinc, and wherein the zinc content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 5, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least copper, and wherein the copper content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 5, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least iron, and wherein the iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting a carbonaceous material to an activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product, thus obtained, with a liquid containing a basic substance to give the activated carbon.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An activated ~~Activated~~ carbon, ~~which is~~ obtained by subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment, wherein, in said activated carbon, the overall content of heavy metals is 20 ppm or less, and the content of alkali metals is 200 ppm or less.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least one metal selected from the group consisting of nickel, copper, zinc and iron.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according claim 11, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least nickel, and wherein the nickel content is 8 ppm or less.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least iron, and wherein the iron content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least zinc, and wherein the zinc content is 0.3 ppm or less.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein said heavy metals comprise at least copper, and wherein the copper content is 1 ppm or less.

Claim 17 (Original): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein said alkali metals are sodium and/or potassium.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, comprising a wherein the silver content of is 0.1 ppm or less.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon according to claim 11, wherein the carbon content, extracted by an extraction treatment using a hydrocarbon solvent, is 0.2 wt% or less.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product, thus obtained, with an acidic aqueous solution containing an oxidizing agent to give the activated carbon.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 20, wherein ~~an~~ the alkali metal hydroxide<sub>1</sub> used as an activation assistant in the alkali activation treatment<sub>1</sub> is sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

Claim 22 (Original): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 20, wherein said acidic aqueous solution is hydrochloric acid.

Claim 23 (Original): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 20, wherein said oxidizing agent is hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product<sub>1</sub> thus obtained<sub>1</sub> with hot water, hot hydrochloric acid and water<sub>1</sub> in that order, to give the activated carbon.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product<sub>1</sub> thus obtained<sub>1</sub> with hot water, carbonate water, hot hydrochloric acid, aqueous ammonia and hot water<sub>1</sub> in that order, to give the activated carbon.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): An activated carbon manufacturing method, comprising subjecting an easily graphitizable carbonaceous material to an alkali activation treatment, and then washing the activation treatment product<sub>1</sub>thus obtained<sub>1</sub> with hot water,

carbonated water, hot hydrochloric acid, aqueous ammonia, hot hydrochloric acid and hot water, in that order, to give the activated carbon.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24 through 26~~, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide, that is used as an activation assistant in the alkali activation treatment, is sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24 through 26~~, wherein the temperature of said hot water is 30 to 95°C.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24 through 26~~, wherein the temperature of said hot hydrochloric acid is 60 to 90°C.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The activated carbon manufacturing method according to claim 24 ~~any of claims 24 through 26~~, wherein the concentration of said hot hydrochloric acid is 0.5 to 3 N.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A polarizing electrode, which is formed by mixing the activated carbon according to claim 1, ~~any of claims 1, 2, 4 through 9 and 11 through 19~~ with at least a binder and a conductive material.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An electrical double layer capacitor, comprising  
~~using~~ the polarizing electrode according to claim 31.